



July 2021

NEWSLETTER - Issue 5

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### Words from Mr Bacon Head of School

This is the last of our Newsletters this year and a good time to reflect on the achievements of this, our first year of operation and of our first ever cohort of students.

Our website still shows the photograph of the ribbon cutting on the opening day at Fairfields last September. Looking at the students it is unbelievable to see how much they have grown up and changed during the year not just in terms of height and features but as individuals and learners. I suspect I have developed one or two more grey hairs during this year but have also changed as an individual, learning a lot from watching the students be respectful, responsible and kind during a year where they have contended with a move to secondary school, another two national lockdowns, COVID testing, self-isolations, a move to a new build and making a new set of friends. They never cease to amaze me with their resilience and I salute each one of their individual and collective achievements this year.



The 'Watling Way' was fully on display during our two 'Watling Olympics' days, which took students beyond the traditional Sports Days and ensured that EVERY single student took part in an activity for the duration of the two days. From basketball to zoneball to netball to football to STEM, Spanish, Art and on to the 'Epic Relay' every student represented their House with pride and never gave in. That engagement and determination demonstrated what we are about at Watling and I am proud of the students and staff who took part but also planned and organised the days.



This issue of the newsletter contains a celebration of all things Watling but also signposts you to some family activities for the summer, celebrates our fundraising for the Henry Allen Trust and showcases the work of our Student Eco-group. I hope that you enjoy getting a flavour of Watling life and wish you all the best for a relaxing summer where you get some chance to spend some quality family time together.

**Mr I Bacon**  
**Head of School**



# WATLING ACADEMY OLYMPICS

This year Watling Academy students were able to utilise the full range of sports facilities for two days of House competition.

**On Day 1** students were given the opportunity to compete in Zoneball, Fitness challenges and Basketball challenges; led by MK basketball who will be running our after-school Basketball club next year. Watling students represented their Houses superbly in all events and a great time was had by all.

**On Day 2** students were given the option of representing their House in sport, art, languages and STEM based activities. Again, the competition in Football, Netball and Dodgeball was fierce. In the STEM based competition students competed to propel their ski jumpers as far as possible, in Languages students learnt and recited a whole new selection of Spanish words based around sport and finally in Art they produced murals based on sport and their House.

The Watling Olympics culminated in an epic 40 station relay in which all students competed.



The final scores ended up as follows:

- 1st Laine
- 1st Marshall
- 3rd Rutherford
- 4th Leyh
- 5th Turing



Well done to Laine and Marshall Houses for their joint first place and a big well done from all the staff to Watling students who completed superbly on both days.

*Mr Gibbs*



On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July, students at Watling Academy took part in TeenTech Live. TeenTech helps young people understand the opportunities in the science, technology and engineering industries, no matter what their gender or social background. The theme of the day was Future Technology as working in the technology sector there is always a rapid pace of innovation.

Students attended live workshops from industry experts including Starship Robots and the BBC and looked at developments in security, AI (Artificial Intelligence), Robotics, Hybrid Vehicle Testing, Logistics, Innovation Training Strategies, Machine Learning, Virtual Reality, media, and communication technologies. As part of the live workshop they were set a challenge to design an innovative piece of technology which could solve local problems. They had to think about what components would be needed for their design as well creating a marketing plan which included a logo and slogan. Some of the ideas that students came up with were:

- Smart watches
- Smart glasses
- Smart clothing
- Mobile phone apps
- Robots

**The following students' ideas stood out**

**Ben, Joel, Mia and Megan came up with a device that would help develop peoples understanding of what to recycle and what not to recycle**

**Ayaan, Josh and Jamal turned mobile technology into glasses**

**Sathvik, Rahim, Amelie and Avalon came up with a robot that will help clear up the streets**

*Mr Bartlam*



NON SCHOOL UNIFORM CHARITY DAY  
 Watling students have raised a grand total of **£166.00** From having two uniform days on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July and Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

Well done everyone!

If you want to find out more information about the Henry Allen Trust  
[www.thehenryallentrust.org.uk](http://www.thehenryallentrust.org.uk)

*Mr Gibbs*



How spectacular are our wild flowers behind our Sports Hall, if you fancy growing your own meadow flowers please click on the National Trust Website:

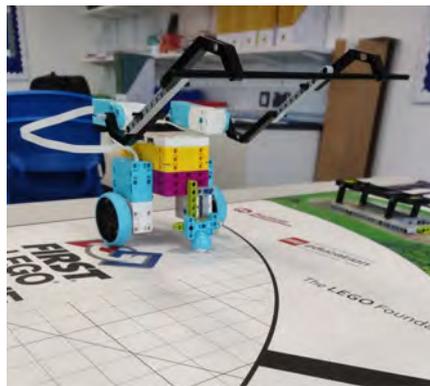
[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/how-to-create-your-own-wildflower-meadow](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/how-to-create-your-own-wildflower-meadow)

*Mr Houghton*



During this term, a number of students have enjoyed attending Lego Club. The students have been able to create many interesting items and even programmed their robots using Scratch to complete challenges across a Lego map. This experience has been very exciting and provided a good insight to the First Lego League competition we hope to take part in next year.

*Mrs Wall*



Congratulations to Josh Memery on winning the inaugural (hopefully annual) Killer Sudoku House Challenge and, in the process picking up competition points for Rutherford. Well done Josh. Forty people entered the initial competition and one from each house went through to a final held this week. Josh was followed, in a brave second place, by Avalon Simpson of Laine. In third place, representing Turing and breaking up the JCY domination of the competition, was Seb Day. In a more than respectable fourth and fifth place were Malika Ranka for Marshall and Freya Whitting for Leyh. A hearty bravo to all of them.

1. Josh - Rutherford
2. Avalon - Laine
3. Seb - Turing
4. Malika - Marshall  
Freya - Leyh

*Mr Williams*



Message from [Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport](#) and [Department for Education](#)

Thanks to the UK's successful vaccine roll-out programme, we can start to enjoy activities safely again, and there's never been a better time to see what's out there.

From trying new activities and sports, to visiting new places and gaining new skills, there's so much to enjoy this summer. That's why we're encouraging families to explore what's on offer across the country using our guide. Here are just a few examples with lots more to come. What will you explore?



From reading your favourite books to visiting the places that inspired them, where will reading take you this summer?

Once upon a time it was [The Summer Reading Challenge](#). Children aged 4-11 can get reading through public libraries and be transported to far away lands and learn new things, all through the love of reading. From Story Makers and Comic Clubs to interactive walks and a family jukebox, [Oxford's Story Museum](#) has a range of activities, performances and workshops for children and young people, throughout the summer holidays.

Share your own stories and work together to draw heroes and act out their adventures. Visit the [Scouts Hybrid Heroes](#) to find out more.



From coding to music lessons, there are lots of ways you can get creative over the summer holidays. Both at home and outside.

Musical instruments at the ready, [Berkshire Maestros Musical Summer](#) is offering one day summer music courses for children, where they can try a variety of instruments.

From a Big Art for Little Artists children's gallery, Craft and Create sessions and a Science Fiction Creative Writing competition to soap making for National Hygiene Week, there are all sorts of activities available for young families thanks to [National Museums Liverpool](#).

Get stuck in with [Oak National Academy's Summer Learning Support programme](#) which offers a range of enrichment activities for young people to enjoy.



Which sports and activities will you enjoy this summer? Why not try something new together?

The [LTA's Youth Start](#) is a starter course for young people who have played little or no tennis before, giving parents the chance to join in too.

Discover the story of Britain through walks. From a short city stroll to a hike through the hills, take your pick from the [Royal Geographic Society's Discovering Britain site](#) to rediscover summer.

An exciting outdoor sport that energises mind and body? Perfect for fresh air, wind in the hair and for putting your map reading skills to the test. Check out orienteering opportunities on [British Orienteering's website](#) across the country this summer.



The summer is a perfect time to get back to nature. Plan your perfect walking route to explore the outdoors or use your imagination to get creative in the natural world.

#WalkingFromHome has never been easier! [Living Street's educational booklet](#) has a bunch of walking activities to keep kids entertained while helping children and young people learn about the importance of walking.

These [interactive object handling workshops from the Horniman Museum](#) explore amazing objects from across the museum's handling collection, from bones and teeth to arctic life and animals in their habitats. Use your imagination to create [Lego Life Forms](#) that could survive environments outside of this world.



Discover fun and engaging activities and ways to explore your local heritage this summer.

Learn about the world of the Second World War with Family Mission Backpacks, an [interactive storytelling experience](#) based on personal stories from D-Day.

British Motor Museum's [Factor Us In exhibition](#) helps young people discover what life was like working in a motoring factory and Stay at Home Science allows families to take part in free science experiments from the comfort of their homes. See what's on at the [British Motor Museum](#) this summer.

Ready for a quest? At [English Heritage](#) locations across the country you can go on a Summer Explorer Quest and fill out an interactive activity book during your visit.



Use the summer holidays to find out about your local community through volunteering or taking part in fun, local activities.

[OnSide](#) is the place for 8-12 year olds, or up to 25 with a disability, to enjoy themselves throughout the summer.

**STEM Learning**



Issue 1 - July 2021

# eco news

Brought to our students by Watling Academy Eco Committee

- Our litter research exercise -

## It's not all rubbish!



In June, Eco Committee members went on a litter picking research mission to find out how our bins are being used. We have some work to do on what goes where, but generally students are making use of the bins.

### Watling's first MK Youth Cabinet member

Congratulations to Khadija-Rehman Memon who was successfully elected to Milton Keynes Youth Cabinet (MKYCAB) and is currently working within the Plastic Pollution action group. Good luck Khadija!



### Reusing and recycling

Our Art and DT departments have need of the following resources. If you are able to help please bring them to Ms Piper:

- Bottle tops from water bottles or soft drinks.
- Magazines for montaging.
- Old socks nearing the end of their lives (clean please!)
- Soft wood and plywood offcuts.

### What goes in which bin?

It's all about the colour of the bag! If it's paper, card, aluminium or stiff plastic - PET or HDPE (check the labelling) - e.g. plastic bottles it can be recycled and goes in the bin with the **CLEAR** bag.

If it's food waste, crisp packets, thin plastic film, foamy plastic, broken rulers or set squares, pens or anything else, it needs to go into the bin with the **BLACK** bag. If there's no bag within - don't put it in!

In Art Club this term, members have produced some thoughtful posters to help highlight the problem of overflowing bins in MK Parks. In Art lessons, we have been looking at the issues around the increasing amounts of single use plastic used in food packaging. We have researched and created packaging nets, designed and built some 3D boxes and even made our own paper by recycling previously used paper.



At the start of the year, in Geography, we worked on a project about how environmentally friendly we are at Watling. We discovered that one of our strengths was the number of students cycling or walking to school - minimising the carbon emissions caused by petrol or diesel vehicles dropping off and collecting students. We would like to encourage as many people as possible to walk or cycle to school.

In DT Textiles, we have been learning how to upcycle - using old socks to make characterful, new sock monkey toys.

Well done and good luck to Alicea Stears and Inayah Khan who have both got through to the international round of the 'Re-Pack to Restore Our World' food packaging design competition, run by the British International Education Association. They are due to meet the judges of the competition next week!



*Ms Piper and Mr Williams*

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Issue 5

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**Dates for your Diary:**

**COVID Testing**  
Wednesday 1st September  
All day

**COVID Testing**  
Saturday 4th September  
All day

**First Day of Term**  
Monday 6th September

**School Photos**  
Friday 10th September

**Open Building**  
13th to 17th September  
17:00–20:00

**Parent Drop in**  
Thursday 16th September  
07:45–08:45

**Flu Vaccinations**  
Thursday 16th September

**Year 7/8 Tutor Evening Pt 1**  
Wednesday 29th September  
16:00–19:00

**Year 7/8 Tutor Evening Pt 2**  
Wednesday 6th October  
16:00–19:00

**Parent Drop-in**  
Thursday 7th October  
15:15–16:15

**End of Half Term**  
Friday 22nd October

**INSET DAY**  
Monday 1st November

**Start of new Half Term**  
Tuesday 2nd November

**Parent Drop-in**  
Thursday 25th November  
07:45–08:45

**Year 7 Learning Pathways**  
Wednesday 1st December  
17:00–20:00

**Year 8 Learning Pathways**  
Wednesday 8th December  
17:00–20:00

**Awards Evening**  
Wednesday 15th December  
17:00–20:00

**Christmas Lunch**  
Thursday 16th December

**Non Uniform Day**  
Friday 17th December

**Last Day of Term**  
Friday 17th December

**NEWSFLASH!****BRAND NEW CATERER AT WATLING ACADEMY**

In September Miquill Catering Services will be offering fresh, nutrition and sustainable home booked meals to all our students.

Students, parents, staff and governors were all involved in the panel who heard presentations and tasted delicious samples from the shortlisted companies. Further information and menus will be sent out over the summer.

*Miss Rhodes*

## Royal Society of Biology Nancy Rothwell Award 2021

The **Nancy Rothwell Award 2021** specimen drawing competition for 7 –18 year olds is now open for submissions

Prizes include art materials for students and their school can also win £100. The deadline for entries is 30th July. Visit the Royal Society of Biology [website](#) for more information.

Photography Competition 2021

‘Interconnected’ is the theme of this year’s Royal Society of Biology **Photography Competition**.

Life on Earth is connected and this year we invite you to capture these interactions. The competition has two age categories each with a cash prize: for entrants who are 18 years old and over (£1000) and for entrants under 18 years old (£500). **Submit your images** by 23rd July.

The Department for Education (DfE) is supporting catch-up programmes and fun activities for all children and young people in England. Get in touch with your local authority to find out or click on this website:

**Visit [educationcatch-up.campaign.gov.uk](https://educationcatch-up.campaign.gov.uk)**

**Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

During these unprecedented times we encourage students and parents to look after yourselves and others by adhering to the Government guidance. Advice is available on protection measures, employment and financial support, education, travel and public services.. **Together we can make a difference. Follow the guidance, support each other and take care.**

The latest advice and information can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>.

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